



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 195**

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 419

*Senate, March 23, 2004*

The Committee on Insurance and Real Estate reported through SEN. CRISCO of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1      Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2      to study the issues related to obesity and whether mandatory health  
3      insurance coverage for the treatment or prevention of obesity should  
4      be enacted. If the task force recommends enacting mandatory health  
5      insurance coverage or other action, the task force shall establish a  
6      definition of obesity and shall consider established definitions,  
7      including, but not limited to, the definition established by the National  
8      Institutes of Health. The task force may also consider: (1) The  
9      effectiveness of existing methods for treating or preventing obesity; (2)  
10     the fiscal impact of treating or preventing obesity; (3) the estimated  
11     level of compliance and cooperation of patients with various methods  
12     of treating or preventing obesity; and (4) the reduction in diabetes,  
13     heart disease and other conditions that results from treating or  
14     preventing obesity.

15 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

16 (1) One physician with expertise in the treatment or prevention of  
17 obesity appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

18 (2) One physician with expertise in the treatment or prevention of  
19 obesity appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

20 (3) One physician with expertise in conditions related to obesity  
21 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

22 (4) One physician from The University of Connecticut Health Center  
23 with expertise in conditions related to obesity appointed by the  
24 majority leader of the Senate;

25 (5) One representative of the health insurance industry appointed  
26 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

27 (6) One representative of the health insurance industry appointed  
28 by the minority leader of the Senate;

29 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
30 designee; and

31 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
32 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
33 relating to insurance and public health.

34 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
35 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
36 filled by the appointing authority.

37 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
38 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task  
39 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons  
40 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no  
41 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

42 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

43 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance  
44 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

45 (f) Not later than January 1, 2005, the task force shall submit a report  
46 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees  
47 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
48 insurance and public health, in accordance with the provisions of  
49 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on  
50 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2005, whichever is  
51 earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

**INS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal	None
Public Health, Dept.; UConn Health Ctr.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill establishes a task force to study the issues related to obesity and whether mandatory health insurance coverage for the treatment or prevention of obesity should be enacted and shall report its findings by January 1, 2005. The bill appoints one physician from the University of Connecticut Health Center and the commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee to the task force, which results in no fiscal impact to either agency. The chairpersons and ranking members of the committees of insurance and public health are appointed to the task force, which may result in a minimal cost to Legislative Management for legislator mileage reimbursement. The bill requires the administrative staff of the Insurance Committee to serve as administrative staff to the task force which results in no fiscal impact.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sSB-419

***AN ACT TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE  
TREATMENT OF OBESITY.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16      Nay 2